

1. **Wonderful volunteers contributed..... 1,975 days to the AONBs in the last year**  
The AONB benefit hugely from volunteer activity. The AONBs facilitated 1,975 volunteer days in 2016/17, equivalent to 10 members of staff. Volunteers have worked across a range of work areas including: Conservation; Walking route surveys; Beachwatch, Greeters; River Restoration; Footpath Work; Wardening; Rangering and as Work Placements. This is just the volunteers facilitated by the AONB team, it does not include huge numbers that volunteer for charities, community groups and those on corporate social responsibility work. The AONBs and associated Project Areas benefit hugely from this effort.
2. **National Association for AONBs chairman on Michael Gove's ambition to restore the UK's nature**  
Reaction to the Secretary of State for Environment, Michael Gove, speech on the environment (see speech at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycodxll4>) from the National Association for AONBs chairman, Mr Philip Hygate included the following statement: *We are delighted to hear that Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP draws inspiration from nature and believes that we need beauty in our lives as much as we need food and shelter. The NAAONB fully concurs with this belief.*
3. **Snapshot..... of a Beachwatch event at Aldeburgh.....**  
Fifty eager Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, along with siblings and families, turned up in force on Saturday 8th July for the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Beachwatch event organised especially for the Deben District Scouts. In total, they collected 10 Kgs of litter, a staggering 300 items along 200m of beach in Aldeburgh. This included 110 pieces of plastic and polystyrene, 60 pieces of cord, 14 shopping bags, 20 pieces of fishing net and fishing lines, 45 pieces of broken glass and bottles, 13 balloons. And a car filter!
4. **Landscapes for Life Conference 2017**  
The National Association for AONBs annual conference attracted over 100 representatives from the protected landscapes network. With a mixture of updates on the outstanding work being done, a briefing delivered by Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager on the concept of Natural Beauty, and other strategic presentations by HLF and the Defra minister responsible for AONBs, Lord Gardiner.
5. **Proceedings of Dedham Vale Stour Valley Forum, now on line**  
Summaries of speeches from Lord Gardiner, Professor Jules Pretty and the Chief Executive of National Association for AONBs and forum proceedings summarised at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7nn4uv9>
6. **Stour and Orwell Conference**  
The annual Stour and Orwell Conference attracted 75 delegates and excellent media coverage. The conference included speakers from UK Power Networks on archaeology finds; Natural England on the England Coast Path; a new Recreational Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy in East Suffolk; and an update from the Marine Management Organisation. Delegates raised over £150 for Grenfell charities.
7. **England Coast Path: Natural England progressing project on all parts of Suffolk Coast**  
All sections of the proposed England Coast Path on the Suffolk Coast and southern shore of Stour Estuary: Harwich to Shotley Gate; Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry; Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey; Bawdsey to Aldeburgh; Aldeburgh to Hopton on Sea are now being worked on by Natural England. Info at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-in-the-east-of-england>
8. **Quick Bits:**
  - Reprint of the ever popular **Four Ferries Leaflet** distributed. On line at <https://tinyurl.com/y8h8jqf2>
  - Update on process for **Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review** (Natural England update) at <https://tinyurl.com/ybzbfsjp>
  - Suffolk County Council include aspiration to protect and enhance AONBs in **Suffolk Priorities 2017-2021** document: See it at <https://tinyurl.com/y9y2grog> Representations made to Essex.
  - Thanks to two grants administered by SCH AONB, over 1500 people have learnt about Suffolk's special shingle beaches and their treasures. Check out Beach Bonkers **beachcombing walks and events** for the summer holidays: <https://tinyurl.com/y8mnyh4k>
  - An album of drawings by 18th Century painter **Thomas Gainsborough** has been discovered in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-40536871>
  - The Heritage Lottery Fund visited the Stour and Orwell Estuaries to find out more about a **Landscape Partnership Scheme** bid submitted by the AONB team.

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